

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DEAE-00 IO-13 JUSE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1463

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, TH, US, SOPN

SUBJ: NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE ON THE EXECUTION OF GENERAL CHALARD  
HIRANYASIRI

1. IN ARTICLE DATED BANGKOK APRIL 21 RESIDENT NY TIMES  
CORRESPONDENT DAVID ANDELMAN REPORTS ON THE EXECUTION OF COUP  
PLOTTER GENERAL CHALARD HIRANYASIRI. IN HIS ARTICLE, ANDELMAN  
HAS SOME RATHER EXTRAORDINARY THINGS TO SAY ABOUT THAT EVENT,  
THE EARLIER EXECUTION OF A HEROIN TRAFFICKER, AS WELL AS THE  
CURRENT LEADERSHIP OF THE THAI GOVERNMENT.

2. AMONG OTHER THINGS, ANDELMAN STATES THAT QTE SENIOR MILITARY  
SOURCES SAID THAT BOTH EXECUTIONS (THAT OF CHALARD AND A HEROIN  
TRAFFICKER 6 DAYS EARLIER) WERE CARRIED OUT HASTILY AND IN SECRET  
TO PREVENT THE VICTIMS FROM NAMING OTHER SENIOR THAI  
GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY OFFICIALS AS ACCOMPLICES.

3. QTE ONE OF THOSE OFFICIALS, THE STRONG MAN BEHIND THE 24  
MEMBER JUNTA, GENERAL KRIANGSAK CHAMANAN--WHO WAS REPORTEDLY  
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ABOUT TO BE LABELED BY THE NARCOTICS DEALER AS A KEY  
CONSPIRATOR IN THAI DRUG TRAFFIC--LEFT TONIGHT FOR MEDICAL  
TREATMENT AT WALTER REED ARMY HOSPITAL IN WASHINGTON DC.  
END QTE.

4. ANDELMAN'S ARTICLE HAS ASTONISHED MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE  
OBSERVERS HERE IN BANGKOK, BOTH WITHIN DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES

AS WELL AS THE FOREIGN PRESS CORPS. THE SUGGESTION OF ANY ASSOCIATION BETWEEN GENERAL KRIANGSAK AND THE EXECUTED DRUG TRAFFICKER HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY ISSUED FORTH FROM BANGKOK'S OVER-WORKED RUMOR MILL. IN TRYING TO RATIONALIZE ANDELMAN'S MOTIVATION IN WRITING THIS SKETCHILY-BASED STORY, SOME OF HIS PRESS COLLEAGUES HAVE SPECULATED THAT HE MAY BE SEEKING "MARTYRDOM" IN THE FORM OF EXPULSION FROM THAILAND. FOR WHATEVER THE REASON, HIS STORY IS VIEWED AS BEING HIGHLY SPECULATIVE AND MOST UNPROFESSIONAL.

5. CERTAINLY THERE HAS BEEN MUCH COMMENT FOLLOWING THE EXECUTIONS OF THE NARCOTICS TRAFFICKER ON APRIL 15, AS WELL AS GENERAL CHALARD ON APRIL 21, BUT UNTIL NOW THERE HAS BEEN NO EFFORT TO LINK THE TWO. REGARDING THE FORMER'S EXECUTION, THERE HAS BEEN MUCH TALK THAT THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT TIMED IT IN ORDER TO PLEASE CONGRESSMAN WOLFF DURING HIS RECENT VISIT AND FURNISH CONVINCING PROOF THAT THE THAIS ARE SERIOUS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO STEM THE FLOW OF NARCOTICS THROUGH THEIR COUNTRY.

6. AS FOR CHALARD'S EXECUTION, AS THE DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE SEEN FROM OUR REPORTING, THERE HAS BEEN SPECULATION THAT SUMMARY JUSTICE WAS METED OUT IN ORDER, AMONG OTHER REASONS, TO PUT AN END TO THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE MARCH 26 COUP MANQUE AND THUS LESSEN THE LIKELIHOOD THAT OTHER IMPORTANT FIGURES OUTSIDE THE GOVERNMENT, SUCH AS GENERAL PRAMAN ADIREKSAN AND FORMER FONMIN CHATCHAI MIGHT BE IMPLICATED, THUS FORCING THE RTG TO DEAL WITH THESE STILL INFLUENTIAL INDIVIDUALS.

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7. THE ANDELMAN STORY STRIKES US AS AMATEURISH AT BEST AND MALICIOUS AT WORST.  
WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

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